Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A track for use in a building framing system, the track comprising:

a web that extends in a longitudinal direction; and

one or more ~~deformable~~ legs which extend from the web and which extend along at least a portion of the web in the longitudinal direction, each ~~deformable~~ leg comprising a deformable portion located between the web and a distal edge of the leg;

wherein each deformable portion is bent along four or more longitudinally-extending bend lines to form four our more corresponding bends and each of the bends is at least one of: compressible to reduce its interior angle and expandable to increase its interior angle; and

wherein deformation of the deformable portion of each leg is accompanied by relative movement of the distal edge of the leg in a direction that is at least one of: towards the web and away from the web.

2. (Currently Amended) A track according to claim 1 wherein a section of each ~~deformable~~ leg that includes the deformable portion consists essentially of a unitary piece of material.

3. (Original) A track according to claim 2 wherein the deformable portion of each leg comprises at least one deformable groove that extends in the longitudinal direction, the deformable groove being at least one of: compressible in a direction orthogonal to the longitudinal direction and expandable in a direction orthogonal to the longitudinal direction.

4. (Currently Amended) A track according to claim 3 wherein each deformable groove comprises: a first angled groove portion that extends from a ~~bend~~ first one of the bends in an upper portion of the leg, a second angled groove portion that extends from a ~~bend~~ second one of the bends in a lower portion of the leg and a central groove portion that extends between third and fourth ones of the bends in the first and second angled groove portions.

5. (Original) A track according to claim 4 wherein, prior to deformation, an angle between the first angled groove portion and the upper portion of the leg, an angle between the second angled groove portion and the lower portion of the leg, an angle between the first angled groove portion and the central groove portion and an angle between the second angled groove portion and the central groove portion are all in a range between 105° and 165°.

6. (Original) A track according to claim 4 wherein each deformable groove is compressible to a relatively compressed state and wherein, in the relatively compressed state, an angle between the first angled groove portion and the upper portion of the leg, an angle between the second angled groove portion and the lower portion of the leg, an angle between the first

angled groove portion and the central groove portion and an angle between the second angled groove portion and the central groove portion are all in a range between 60° and 150°.

7. (Original) A track according to claim 4 wherein each deformable groove is expandable to a relatively expanded state and wherein, in the relatively expanded state, an angle between the first angled groove portion and the upper portion of the leg, an angle between the second angled groove portion and the lower portion of the leg, an angle between the first angled groove portion and the central groove portion and an angle between the second angled groove portion and the central groove portion are all in a range between 120° and 180°.

8-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) A track according to claim 3 wherein each deformable groove is resiliently deformable.

13. (Currently Amended) A track according to claim 3 wherein each leg comprises a flat portion between its at least one deformable groove and its distal edge, the flat portion providing a surface ~~to which one or more studs may be coupled~~ for coupling one or more studs to the track.

14. (Original) A track according to claim 3 wherein the one or more legs comprise a pair of spaced apart legs which extend from the web to define a channel therebetween.

15. (Currently Amended) A track according to claim 14 wherein each deformable groove ~~projects~~ opens into the channel.

16. (Currently Amended) A track according to claim 14 wherein each deformable groove ~~projects~~ opens outwardly from the channel.

17. (Currently Amended) A track according to claim 3 wherein each deformable groove comprises at least one ~~edge~~ portion that is ~~arcuate~~ curved in cross-section.

18. (Original) A track according to claim 2 wherein the deformable portion of each leg comprises a plurality of deformable grooves, each deformable groove extending in the longitudinal direction and each deformable groove being at least one of: compressible in a direction orthogonal to the longitudinal direction and expandable in a direction orthogonal to the longitudinal direction.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Original) A track according to claim 2 wherein the one or more legs comprise a pair of spaced apart legs which extend from the web to define a channel therebetween and wherein the deformable portion of each leg comprises a curved bend of the leg, the curved bend having an interior angle greater than 90° and curving toward an interior of the channel.

21. (Original) A track according to claim 2 wherein the track consists essentially of a unitary piece of material.

22. (Original) A track according to claim 2 used in a wall of a building, the wall comprising an opposing track and one or more studs, each stud extending between and coupled at its opposite ends to the track and to the opposing track.

23. (Original) A track according to claim 22 wherein a first portion of each stud is coupled to the one or more legs of the track between the deformable portions and the distal edges of the one or more legs, such that relative movement of the stud toward the web causes compression of the deformable portion of each leg.

24. (Original) A track according to claim 22 wherein a first portion of each stud is coupled to the one or more legs of the track between the deformable portions and the distal edges of the one or more legs, such that relative movement of the stud away from the web causes expansion of the deformable portion of each leg.

25. (Original) A track according to claim 22 wherein the one or more legs of the track comprise a pair of spaced apart legs which extend from the web to define a channel therebetween.

26. (Original) A track according to claim 25 wherein each leg of the track comprises a flat portion located between its deformable portion and its distal edge and wherein a first end portion of each stud extends into the channel and is coupled to the flat portion of each leg.

27. (Original) A track according to claim 25 wherein the channel is a downwardly opening channel.

28. (Original) A track according to claim 25 wherein the channel is an upwardly opening channel.

29. (Original) A track according to claim 22 wherein an opposing end portion of each stud is coupled to the opposing track in a manner that does not permit substantial relative movement between the stud and the opposing track.

30. (Original) A track according to claim 22 wherein the opposing track is substantially similar to the track and an opposing end of each stud is coupled to the opposing track in a manner that permits relative movement between the stud and the opposing track.

31. (Original) A track according to claim 1 wherein the deformable portion of each leg comprises an elastic member.

32. (Original) A track according to claim 31 wherein each elastic member is fabricated separately from the track and subsequently coupled to the corresponding leg of the track.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A track according to claim ~~33~~ 31 wherein the ~~at least one bend~~ elastic member associated with each leg comprises at least one deformable groove that extends in the longitudinal direction, the deformable groove being at least one of: compressible in a direction orthogonal to the longitudinal direction and expandable in a direction orthogonal to the longitudinal direction.

35. (Original) A track according to claim 34 wherein each deformable groove is resiliently deformable.

36. (Original) A track according to claim 34 wherein the one or more legs comprise a pair of spaced apart legs which extend from the web to define a channel therebetween.

37. (Currently Amended) A track according to claim 36 wherein each deformable groove ~~projects~~ opens in a direction that is one of: into the channel and outwardly from the channel.

38. (Currently Amended) A track according to claim 34 wherein each deformable groove comprises at least one ~~edge~~ portion that is ~~arcuate~~ curved in cross-section.

39. (Currently Amended) A track according to claim ~~33~~ 34 wherein the ~~at least one bend~~ elastic member associated with each leg comprises a plurality of deformable grooves, each deformable groove extending in the longitudinal direction and each deformable groove being at least one of: compressible in a direction orthogonal to the longitudinal direction and expandable in a direction orthogonal to the longitudinal direction.

40. (Original) A track according to claim 34 wherein a section of each deformable leg that includes the deformable portion consists essentially of a unitary piece of material.

41. (Original) A track according to claim 1 wherein each deformable leg consists essentially of a unitary piece of material.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) A track for use in a building framing system, the track comprising an elongated member that extends in a longitudinal direction and a pair of legs that extend from the elongated member at spaced apart locations and along at least a portion of the elongated member in the longitudinal direction to define a channel therebetween, at least one of the legs having a deformable portion located between its distal edge and the elongated member, the deformable portion bent along four or more longitudinally-extending bend lines to form four or more corresponding bends, each bend being at least one of: compressible to reduce its interior angle and expandable to increase its interior angle.

44. (Original) A track according to claim 43 wherein the deformable portion extends in the longitudinal direction and is at least one of: compressible to reduce a dimension of the deformable portion in a direction orthogonal to the longitudinal direction and expandable to increase the dimension of the deformable portion in a direction orthogonal to the longitudinal direction.

45. (Currently Amended) A track according to claim 43 wherein a section of the at least one leg that includes the deformable portion comprises a unitary sheet of ~~material and the deformable portion comprises at least one bend in the sheet of~~ material.

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently Amended) A method for providing relative movement between a track and one or more studs in a building framing system, the method comprising:

providing a track having a web which extends in a longitudinal direction and one or more legs which extend from the web and which extend along at least a portion of the web in the longitudinal direction;

rigidly coupling a first end of the one or more studs to the one or more legs; and

deforming the one or more legs to permit relative movement of the one or more studs in a direction that is at least one of: toward the web and away from the web;

wherein at least one of the one or more legs comprises a deformable portion bent along four or more longitudinally-extending bend lines to form four or more corresponding bends and deforming the one or more legs comprises at least one of: compressing at least one of the four or more bends to reduce its interior angle and expanding at least one of the four or more bends to increase its interior angle.

48. (Original) A method according to claim 47 wherein deforming the one or more legs comprises resiliently deforming the one or more legs.

49. (Original) A method according to claim 47 wherein each leg of the track comprises a deformable groove and wherein deforming the one or more legs comprises at least one of: compressing the deformable groove; and expanding the deformable groove.

50. (New) A track according to claim 1 wherein, prior to deformation, interior angles of the four or more bends are in a range of 105° to 165°.

51. (New) A track according to claim 1 wherein each of the four or more bends is compressible to a relatively compressed state and wherein, in the relatively compressed state, interior angles of the four or more bends are in a range of 60° to 150°.

52. (New) A track according to claim 1 wherein each of the four or more bends is expandable to a relatively expanded state and wherein, in the relatively expanded state, interior angles of the four or more bends are in range of 120° to 180°.

53. (New) A track according to claim 4 wherein, prior to deformation, a sum of:

(a) an angle between the first angled groove portion and the upper portion of the leg;

(b) an angle between the second angled groove portion and the lower portion of the leg;

(c) an angle between the first angled groove portion and the central groove portion; and

(d) an angle between the second angled groove portion and the central groove portion;

is in a range of 420° to 660°.

54. (New) A track according to claim 4 wherein each deformable groove is compressible to a relatively compressed state and wherein, in the relatively compressed state, a sum of:

(a) an angle between the first angled groove portion and the upper portion of the leg;

(b) an angle between the second angled groove portion and the lower portion of the leg;

(c) an angle between the first angled groove portion and the central groove portion; and

(d) an angle between the second angled groove portion and the central groove portion;

is in a range of 2400° to 600°.

55. (New) A track according to claim 4 wherein each deformable groove is expandable to a relatively expanded state and wherein, in the relatively expanded state, a sum of:

(a) an angle between the first angled groove portion and the upper portion of the leg;

(b) an angle between the second angled groove portion and the lower portion of the leg;

(c) an angle between the first angled groove portion and the central groove portion; and

(d) an angle between the second angled groove portion and the central groove portion;

is in a range of 480° to 720°.